In the Claims:

Claims **1 to 21** (canceled).

22. (Currently amended) A combination comprising an aircraft and a flexible guard hose arrangement connected to said aircraft for protecting insulated ~~electrical~~ conductors installed in said aircraft, said flexible guard hose arrangement comprising a plurality of flexible guard hoses made of a flexible synthetic material, each guard hose having an inner diameter for receiving at least one of said insulated ~~electrical~~ conductors, each guard hose comprising an outwardly facing first contour, said flexible guard hose arrangement further comprising at least one spacer (5) positioned between two neighboring guard hoses of said plurality of guard hoses, said at least one spacer having two ~~second opposite~~ oppositely facing second contours, said outwardly facing first contours and said oppositely facing second contours forming matching junctions (6, 7) directly between said at least one spacer and said two neighboring flexible guard hoses thereby spacing said plurality of flexible guard hoses from one another, wherein each of said oppositely facing second contours contacts a circumferential portion less than 180° of a respective outwardly facing first contour to thereby partly encircle said respective outwardly facing first ~~contour.~~ contour and wherein said matching junctions (6, 7) formed directly between said at least one spacer (5) and said two

neighboring flexible guard hoses, consist of any one of an adhesive bonding, a welding bond directly between the flexible guard hose and the spacer and a one piece unitary junction.

23. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 22, comprising a first number of guard hoses, and a second number of spacers arranged between and directly connected at said junctions (6, 7) to two neighboring guard hoses, and wherein each of said spacers is positioned along a straight length of two neighboring guard ~~hoses.~~ hoses with an open spacing between neighboring spacers to keep the guard hose arrangement flexible.

24. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 22, wherein said at least one spacer has first and second surfaces opposite each other, said first and second surfaces forming a first pair of surfaces, said at least one spacer further comprising third and fourth surfaces also opposite each other and forming a second pair of surfaces, each surface of at least one pair of said first and second pairs of surfaces having one of said two oppositely facing second ~~opposite~~ contours matching a circumferential portion of said outwardly facing first contour of a respective flexible guard hose.

25. (Currently amended) The combination of claim 24, wherein said outwardly facing first contour is convex and wherein

said two oppositely facing second ~~opposite~~ contours are concave.

26. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The combination of claim 24, wherein said first and second spacer surfaces opposite each other are squares or ~~rectangles~~ rectangular surfaces and wherein said third and fourth spacer surfaces are substantially rectangles with two opposite contoured ends.

27. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) The combination of claim 24, wherein said first and second surfaces forming said first pair are larger than said third and fourth surfaces forming said second pair and wherein said oppositely facing second ~~opposite~~ contours are provided at least on said ~~first~~ third and ~~second~~ fourth surfaces.

Claim **28** (Canceled).

29. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, wherein said spacer has a V-sectional or U-sectional configuration.

30. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 29, wherein said V-sectional or U-sectional configuration has legs of equal length.

31. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 29, wherein said V-sectional or U-sectional configuration has legs of unequal length.

32. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, wherein said spacer has a V-sectional configuration with two legs enclosing an angle (α) between said two legs.

33. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 32, wherein said angle (α) is within the range of 45° to 90°.

34. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, wherein said spacer has a U-sectional configuration with two legs interconnected by a connector section (L), each leg enclosing with said connector section (L) an angle (β).

35. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 34, wherein said angle (β) is up to 150°.

36. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, wherein said at least one spacer has at least one through-hole.

37. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, wherein a first and last guard hose of said plurality of guard hoses has an outwardly positioned surface portion facing away from said at least one spacer, said guard hose arrangement further comprising a protective covering on said surface portion facing away from said at least one spacer.

38. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 37, wherein said protective covering is a metal foil or fabric adhesively

bonded to said surface portion facing away from said at least one spacer.

39. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 37, wherein said covering is a coating comprising metal particles forming a screen against electromagnetic adverse influences.

40. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, wherein at least one guard hose of said plurality of guard hoses comprises at least one protective ridge (11) extending externally and along said at least one guard hose.

41. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 22, comprising several spacers arranged in a row between two neighboring guard hoses of said plurality of guard hoses, and spaces (S) between neighboring spacers in said row.

42. (New) The combination of claim 22, wherein said flexible guard hoses and said at least one spacer are made of polytetrafluoroethylene.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]